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ANDREW DAKERS

Alas, that Great City

FRANCIS ASHTON

Francis Ashton achieved a notable success with his first novel, *The Breaking of the Seals*. His new book is once again based on the cosmology of the Viennese scientist, Lieberbiger, but on this occasion the period of the world's history which he reconstructs is that of Atlantis. The story opens at the present day with a prologue in which Jonathan, a young yachtsman, agrees to sail an unknown man to the mid-Atlantic for a purpose which is not disclosed to him, only to find, when he arrives at their rendezvous, that his passenger is a girl whose ambition it is to carry out an experiment with time which her father's illness has prevented him from undertaking. The story which follows is a brilliantly imaginative reconstruction of life in the ill-fated city of Atlantis.

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This third volume of a series which Marjorie Livingston started with *Island Sonata* and continued in *Muted Strings* gives the reader the measure of the difficult task in which she has succeeded. Already these three books form a unique contribution to literature, for never before has an imaginative writer attempted to present in a series of novels a group of characters meeting and re-meeting in successive incarnations, and showing them working out their karmic destiny under the inexorable law of cause and effect.

The authenticity of Mrs. Livingston's re-creation of life in Atlantis has to be taken on trust, since no records survive; no critic has ventured to question the rightness of her remarkable picture of ancient Egypt, drawn with unexampled detail, and in this new novel she presents the background of life in ancient Greece with the same fidelity and with real awareness of the philosophic realities of that age. The sources of her knowledge are reached by a method which only a few can understand, but everyone can enjoy the obvious reality of her brilliant re-construction. *Delphic Echo* is as readable as a novel should be, and its depth and uniqueness serve to give it a colour and symmetry which are worthy of the magnitude of its theme. 12/6

A new edition of *Island Sonata* is in course of production; also, a limited number of copies of *Muted Strings* is available now. (10/6d. net.)

THE GREAT CATAclysms OF PRE-HISTORY.

Summary of a Lecture given by Francis Ashton on September 23rd, 1948, with an Appreciation by E. Boughton.

According to Hoerbiger's Theory space is filled with a highly tenuous gas, which offers resistance to the movements of the bodies of the Solar System. This causes the planets to spiral gradually down into the sun, and their satellites to spiral down upon them.

The existence of this cloud of gas has recently been confirmed by the Dominion Observatory, British Columbia.

Years before Hoerbiger was born, Roche worked out what would happen to the Moon if it came close to the earth, and he found that it would break up and form a ring round it.

Saturn's rings are the debris of a satellite which strayed within Roche's limit and broke up. There is some evidence that changes are taking place in the rings and that their substance is showering down upon the planet.

Some time in the very distant future the moon will come so close to the earth that it will break up; conversely there was a time when it was further away than it is now; in fact it was not a satellite at all, but a planet describing an orbit between those of the Earth and Mars.

Being much lighter than the earth, it was spiralling sunwards more quickly, when it was captured and retained as a satellite.

This capture was attended by a cataclysm on the earth, which was the cause of the Wurm glaciation, the Klimasturz, great seismic disturbances, and the sinking of Atlantis. Geological evidence proves that all this happened between 13,000 and 15,000 years ago.

According to Hoerbiger the present moon is by no means the only moon that the earth has had. In the course of the thousands of millions of years of its history it has captured many other moons, which have spiralled down on to it and been destroyed.

He believed that the end of each of the great geological epochs was marked by the destruction of one of these satellites.

The last cataclysm of this type occurred at the end of the Tertiary era, perhaps a million years ago. Throughout Pliocene times, a satellite was approaching the earth, drawing the oceans away from the poles and causing an ice age, the Gunz.

At the end of the era it entered Roche's limit and broke up. This was the beginning of an appalling catastrophe. At first the debris was spread out into a ring round the earth, but it soon began to rain down upon it.

There were terrible storms of hail and rain mixed with mud. These were followed by a bombardment of core blocks, which came shrieking, white hot, through the earth's atmosphere. At the same time there were great earthquakes and volcanic eruptions everywhere. Finally the oceans, which had been gradually drawn away from the poles, flowed back again, spreading death and destruction as they went.

If one accepts, as I do, the Hoerbiger Theory in its broad lines and implications, then we have an explanation of the recurring orogenic periods in geological history, for the occurrence of which geology has little tangible explanation to offer. Right back down the earth's history we see in the rocks the evidence of these tremendous upheavals when great land-masses have been submerged beneath the seas and others heaved upwards. The reverse process follows with irregular regularity. Of some nine major periods the last three were those of the Alpine, Hercynian and Caledonian orogenies, but perhaps six or seven times within each of the greater cycles the seas have flooded the lowlands and retreated again. In Europe and North America since the close of the pre-Cambrian there have been altogether about 20 minor cycles and the three greater ones.

It is to be assumed that these periods of upheaval represent two different kinds of happenings—some represent "capture" phenomena while others are those caused by the "disintegration" of satellites. It seems reasonable to assume that, subject in some degree to the differing sizes of the satellites involved, the disintegration effects would have greater than the capture ones. The latter would only have involved the physical affairs of the earth itself, i.e., floods and atmospheric changes and crustal movements such as earthquakes and volcanic outpourings. Times of disintegration would have had all the horrid additions caused by the falling fragments of the satellites.

Hoerbiger postulates the existence of simultaneous northern and southern polar ice-caps on these occasions and Mr. Ashton stated (probably in rather an over-simplification) that they were due to the withdrawal of the atmosphere from those regions. Here there is, I submit, some confusion of thought because it is beyond doubt that the deposition of snow to form ice-caps cannot be attributed to the rarefaction of the atmosphere. Parenthetically, I am aware of Mr. Bellamy's view (1) of the waves of sludge being swept polewards and frozen, but these could not possibly produce the depth of ice which was formed. The necessary constituent is moisture and evidence is available now in the ice-free regions to the north of Canada and in Northern Siberia, one of the coldest regions of the globe. Even the extreme north of Greenland is practically free of ice while far to the south it exists in depths of up to some 9,000 feet. There is also the evidence of Shetelig and Falk (2) to show that at the maximum of the last glacia-

tion Jutland still had an unbroken western shore, free of ice, and that along considerable stretches of the west coast of Norway the same ice-free condition* prevailed. Also, it is to be recorded that there is no evidence of an Antarctic glaciation contemporaneous with the Arctic one. This is a matter made more difficult by the relatively few land areas upon which to work, but A. R. Daly has done an immense amount of research upon the matter and the point seems quite definite.

Leaving for the moment the causes of deposition and accepting, as part of what I will call "satellite history," the existence of polar ice-caps, one or two most important problems arise.

The geological record is admittedly very imperfect, or rather, our ability to understand and interpret it, but it is obvious that if ice-caps were inevitable concomitants, then the record ought to have something useful to contribute. Unfortunately, it is, if not silent, then negative, save for the terribly difficult evidence to be found in the deposits of the Permo-Carboniferous—a time when as the surface features of the earth are now constituted, great humid heat existed in the now arctic regions of Spitzbergen, as evidenced by the coal measures there of that age, and when great sheets of ice were to be found where is the present equator. The Carboniferous glaciations are known to have occurred in as haphazard a manner as the hot humid forests which made the coal measures and the only worth-while explanation, in my opinion, is that provided by the Theory of Continental Drift—the displacement, or movement, of the continents in relation to one another. More of this later.

I am not in a position to say whether or not this Permo-Carboniferous ice-sheet (into which these now dispersed fragments can be gathered in terms of the Displacement Theory) exactly coincided with the great orogenic movements of that time—the Hercynian orogeny—they may well have done so, but the detailed evidence is not clear. The record, however, when we come to the Alpine orogeny, which represents the great break at the end of the Cretaceous and the beginning of the Tertiary (the Eocene), is clearly negative. There is no evidence of ice at this time and the generally called Quarternary Ice Age (actually it began during the last phase of the Tertiary, the Pliocene) clearly did not begin until long after the mountain building period was over.

Mr. Ashton spoke of the "Ice Age," i.e., the Quaternary Ice Age, as though it was fundamentally one event, stretching from that first main onset of ice, generally referred to as the Gunz Glaciation, to the last retreating remnants measured by de Geer in Scandinavia and dated with some reasonable precision to some 10/15,000 years ago. This is perhaps a too facile generalisation because the glacial phenomena show very clearly that, while it is possible, and I think correct, to ignore many of the comparatively minute divisions postulated by many geologists, there are beyond doubt two sets of completely

different remains. I refer to the two phases generally called by glacialists the Old and New Drift.

Almost thirty years' study of glaciology have led me to hold views increasingly divergent from those of orthodox geology and I am now convinced that conventional explanations of the Quarternary Ice Age are, *ab initio*, incorrect. In this attitude I am fortified by the material which comes steadily forward from greatly different directions. It is my belief that the early, and incomparably the greatest, ice invasion of the British Isles was effected by an ice-sheet coming in upon them from the North-West. This same ice-sheet affected practically the whole of Europe and North America but even an outline of the evidence could not be given here—perhaps it would be irrelevant, but its bulk alone would prohibit it. I make no claim to the discovery of fresh facts: I feel that the observations of fact made by skilled and trained geologists are fundamentally correct. I do, however, disagree with the interpretations placed upon them, and I do feel that, to support what has now become a convention, many indisputable facts are being wholly ignored or else are sadly perverted. Struggling to find the north-westerly source of my ice-sheet I came upon Wegener (4) and the Displacement Theory which provided me with the Greenland Continent, heaped even higher with ice than it is to-day, in just about the exact position necessary. This was of the greatest encouragement, because whilst I was not prepared to abate my views just because my limited knowledge did not provide a solution, and I held quite strongly to my lists of facts, it did not suggest that I was quite probably moving along the right lines.

When one examines the Old Drift, whether in the British Isles, on the Continent of Europe or in N. America, one cannot fail but be amazed at the quite remarkable resemblance between the deposits. The margins are everywhere characterised not only by an advanced state of decomposition and erosion when compared to those of the New Drift, but also in the complete absence of all the well-known forms of kames, eskers, drumlins and moraines which as regularly characterise the New Drift deposits. At its maximum extension the Old Drift has left no terminal moraines and its ground moraine dies out so gradually (due to the small amount of detritus carried by it) that it is really difficult to trace. Surely it is more than strange that the Old Drift should always just peter out in this manner while everywhere the New Drift terminates in simply enormous moraines—and the New Drift was an infinitely lesser glaciation. Two such entirely different types of glaciation cannot possibly have had a common origin and we are entitled therefore to separate them entirely from each other. They do, in fact, exactly reproduce the differences to be seen to-day between the Antarctic and Greenland ice-sheets on the one hand and any mountain glacier. The older moraineless drift was that of the Greenland ice-sheet which just died

in its tracks when the link with its nourishing ground was broken while the New Drift was fundamentally that of coal glaciers and their coalesced little ice-sheets.

In matters of timing it is interesting to see that both Wegener and his greatest living exponent, du Toit (5) agree that the Atlantic rift did not begin to open from the south until the Carboniferous. Wegener dated the break-up in the northern areas as being at the end of the Tertiary and the beginning of the Pleistocene. Du Toit disagreed with this, but in a communication to the writer in 1938 he agreed that he might, in the light of the data put to him, be doing Wegener an injustice. That he became definitely of this mind is apparent from his contribution in the following year to a symposium on the Displacement Theory (6), when he says that, in the Pleistocene, Greenland was joined by the ice-sheet to Scandinavia, Iceland and the British Isles.

(To be continued.)

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ATLANTIS: THE ATLANTIC CONTINENT AND ITS SUBMERSION.

PART III.

RENE MALAISE, D.Sc.

If the Mid-Atlantic Ridge had always been submarine, and the depth over it during the Ice Age had been equal to (or greater than) what it is to-day, then it would be impossible to explain how the thickness of the sediments could be different on each side.

The summit of the ridge is situated far too deep below the surface of the water (about 1,300 m.), to have any influence whatever upon the direction of the surface streams; which, as is established, are the only ones that carry glacial sediments of any importance. In the middle of the immense expanse of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean the sedimentation ought then to be equal

over a very large area; and a distance of 30 or 60 km. accordingly is of no importance. Yet the distance between the core taken from the top of the ridge and the nearest ones on either side of it is only 30 km. (25' 0''). Hence the Mid-Atlantic Ridge must formerly have been more elevated, and this testimony of the different sedimentation on both sides of the ridge is the first geological evidence of the existence of the now sunken continent Atlantis.

We have now seen that Atlantis really existed above sea-level, why it sank; but for the date of its sinking we have to turn our attention to the Mediterranean. Around this sea several shore-lines may be found at different elevations above and below the present sea-level. The elevated shore-lines with corresponding river terraces are generally supposed to have been laid down during the warm Inter-glacial stages of the Ice Age. During the colder stages, the water stored on land in the shape of ice and snow on the polar caps and the glaciers the world over, came by evaporation from the oceans and deprived them of so much water that the general sea-level sank, probably about 100 meters.

When the climate turned warmer during the Inter-glacial stages the sea-level rose again, but in the warm Mediterranean region the land had been subjected to a slow elevation, and the most ancient sea-levels are accordingly higher than the more recent ones. Now there is a hitherto puzzling fact about these raised Mediterranean shore-lines, namely that the oldest of them, known as the Sicilian and which is generally accepted as dating from the longest and warmest of the Inter-glacials, the second one, contains fossils of a cold marine fauna; the next one contains a somewhat warmer fauna; the one above sub-tropical fauna; and the last one a fauna resembling the present one.

The surface evaporation of the Mediterranean to-day is stronger than the water supply brought into it by its rivers, and without the influx of ocean water through the Straits of Gibraltar the Mediterranean would be turned into a separate land-locked sea with high salinity. This did actually happen during the Tertiary and probably also during the beginning of the Ice Age. The different temperatures of the Mediterranean during the successive and always warm Inter-glacials cannot have depended on local causes, but must have been due to the temperature of the constantly inflowing ocean water. The temperature of this water in turn depends on the prevailing marine currents outside the Straits of Gibraltar, which current in turn depends on the distribution of land and sea in the Atlantic.

During the so-called Sicilian transgression, the surface water outside the Straits of Gibraltar was cold and contained an Arctic marine fauna. Such a condition would be quite natural, especially if the West European Basin, which obtained cold water from the Arctic Ocean as well as from the melting ice-caps and glaciers, was more or less completely land-locked, even at its southern boundary. If the northern part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge broke up into a row of islands, then the Gulf Stream

passing along the western shore of this ridge would penetrate between the islands into the West European Basin, and the surface water of this basin would have been warmed. It is possible that this basin was contained in the south by a strip of land or a row of islands running from the African continent to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The present Canary Islands may quite well be the remnants of such an archipelago.

In the tropical Cape Verde Basin, to the south of this hypothetical trans-Atlantic Ridge, the water must always have been warm; and most probably circulated in the same manner as the present much larger Sargasso Sea. When the trans-Atlantic ridge began to sink, a warm marine current was able to proceed north over it, bringing with it tropical fauna from the coast of Guinea to the Mediterranean. At a later stage when the central part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge sank, the Gulf Stream sent a branch of comparatively cold water, now named the Canaries Current from the north along the African coast, pushing the warm fauna south.

There is thus a possibility of dating the sinking of Atlantis in comparison to the approximately known Mediterranean transgressions. The northern part of it broke up into a row of islands during the Second Inter-glacial Epoch, the connection with the African continent sank or was sunken during the Third Inter-glacial, and the central part of Atlantis sank during the last cold epoch, the so-called Würm or Wisconsin, or just after its end. This must have happened about 25,000 - 30,000 years ago.

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BASQUES.

P. L. COLLIGNON, Ph.D.

Dr. Collignon, M.A. (Oxon) History, Ph.D. (London) Anthropology—is now History Master at the Witney Grammar School, Oxford. He was formerly associated with Sir Grafton Elliot Smith and Professor Perry.

Is there any relationship between the Basque nation and Atlantis? This question is one raised by the Research Centre Group. Dr. Yoshitomi (1), a Japanese author who has made a special study of the origin of the Basques, draws attention to the physical resemblance between Basques, Japanese and most athletic Jews. "Pavlinov, the Spanish Basque boxer, who is a typical specimen of his race, might easily be mistaken for a Japanese wrestler . . ."

Dr. Yoshitomi also draws attention to similarities between the Japanese and Basque languages. For instance *mousoko* in Japanese and *moutiko* in Basque both mean a young man. The masculine gender in Japanese is formed by the addition of *asu*, while in Basque it is *asa*. The feminine in Japanese is formed by the addition of *me*, and in Basque by *eme*. These facts are certainly striking.

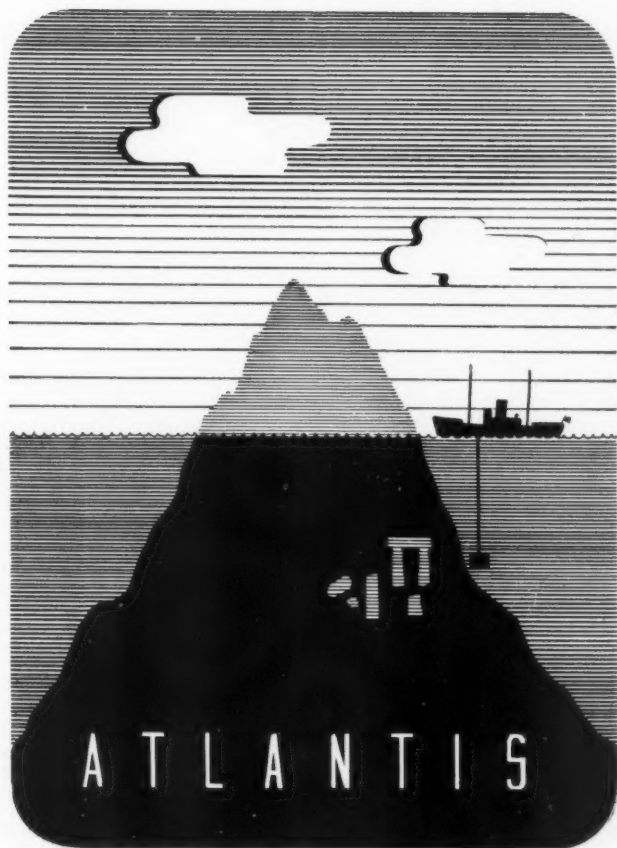
Dr. Rendel Harris (2) claims that the name of Tabasco, north-west of Guatemala, and north of Chiapas, is ancient Egyptian and means *The Land of the Basques* (Ta-Bascu). He supports this claim by other identifications which suggest Egyptian voyages towards the West. For instance, Guatemala seems to mean *The Way of the Setting Sun*, (Wa-Tem-Ra). It is well known, of course, that the Spanish could not pronounce *Wa* and made *Gua* of it, and that the sound *l* is always interchangeable with *r*. *Gua-tem-la* might, therefore, result. Similarly, Nicaragua, to the south-east, seems to mean *The Way of the Old Man Ra*, (Nkhkh-Ra-Wa, or Nk-ragua), *The Dying (or Setting) Sun*. Honduras, between Guatemala and Nicaragua, also seems to mean the same thing. *Hondu* is a Basque word and means *abimer* (descent into an abyss). Honduras may, therefore, mean *The Descent of Ra into the Abyss, or The Setting Sun*. These three names, therefore, seem to mean the same thing, i.e. the West. Andorra in the Pyrenees, and Ondarroa to the south of the Bay of Biscay (the West in Europe) are philologically equated with Honduras as Basque. Incidentally, the water north of Tabasco is called the Bay of Campeche. *Kam* is one of the names by which the Egyptians used to describe their homeland, and the Egyptian root *petch* means a curve, so Campeche (Kam-petch) (3) may mean Egypt Bay.

It may well be asked, how did Ancient Egyptians manage to cross the Atlantic? But it must not be forgotten that the Atlantic Ocean in remote times was probably not the same as it is now and, in any case, as I recently pointed out, the Egyptians were great sea-goers. Readers of the works of Lewis Spence will know that he suggests (4) that much of Antilla may have existed for a very long time after the disappearance of Atlantis, and if he is right a voyage across the Atlantic may have been much easier in those early days.

It is of course, well known that the Mayas, who inhabited the region which includes Tabasco, went to great labour and expense to construct great ball-courts. These were used (as the American A. Hyatt Verrill tells us), for a game similar in many respects to the distinctively Basque game of pelota.

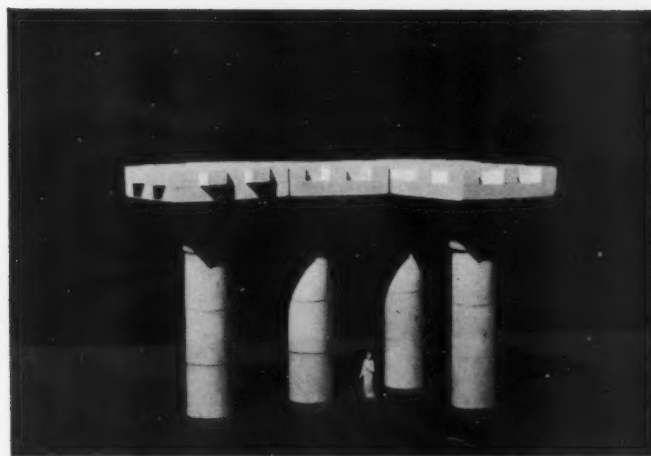
The question of the actual origin of the Basques is, of course, not answered in this note, but it is significant that if it is true that Tabasco is Egyptian the Basques must have been in Central America, much closer to Japan than they are in Spain now, before the arrival of Egyptians. How and why a little colony of them came to the eastern shores of the Atlantic still remains a problem (5).

Greetings



Christmas and New Year





The above theoretical model of an Atlantean Temple together with the detailed treatment of the Column prepared by well known Danish Architect, is published through the courtesy of our Danish Correspondents, *De Unges Forening*, to whom enquiries should be addressed.



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- (3) Petchi—one who carries a bow.
- (4) e.g. *The Problem of Lemuria* (Rider, 1932), p. 229.
- (5) See Note 2 above for more suggestions about Basque names on this side of the Atlantic.

THE VOYAGE OF THE ALBATROSS.

FRANCIS ASHTON.

On September 23rd, a Swedish schooner, the Albatross, docked in London after a fifteen month voyage of research, during which she has been deep sea trawling, sounding, and taking cores from the oceans' bottoms.

Although it will be years before the examinations of the specimens and the samples that she has brought back are completed and their full results published, Professor Hans Petterssen, the leader of the expedition, has given a hint which suggests that some of his discoveries will be of great interest to the readers of ATLANTIC RESEARCH.

In an article in the "Times" of September 11th, he describes the sounding of the Romanche Deep to 4,175 fathoms. At the same time a core 47ft. long was raised which showed remarkable stratification, the uppermost layers being very dark whereas further down the sediment was light grey with a fair mixture of calcareous shells; but a second one showed "even more sensational results." The heavy core sampler was stopped by a layer of coarse sand mixed with sediment. The minerals in this sand will give information about the rocks from which the Mid-Atlantic ridge was built up, and, moreover, the core leaves little doubt that portions of the ridge once protruded above the ocean. The date at which they did so has yet to be estimated, and for the present we must be content with Petterssen's statement that it was "in the fairly recent past, geologically speaking."

Petterssen also reviews briefly the results of previous surveys in that area. In 1883 the French survey ship, "La Romanche," discovered the Deep and sounded to a depth of 4,030 fathoms, close to where the Mid-Atlantic Ridge rises to a depth of less than 2,000 fathoms. This sounding was confirmed 18 years later by a German expedition ship, the "Gauss," which succeeded in bringing up a sediment core showing extraordinary stratification and leading to the conclusion that, between 20,000 and 10,000 years ago, the bottom suddenly subsided some 3,000 fathoms to its present enormous depth.

THE WELSH TEMPLE OF THE ZODIAC.

PART III.

Carreg-y-Bucci—St. David's Church—The Outer Signs.

LEWIS EDWARDS.

It was purely an accident in the sequence of discoveries that led us to follow the old road, once a bridle path leading north towards Aquarius and carving its way to north Wales. It was subsequently converted into a Roman road and was known throughout its length as Sarn Helen, or Helen's Road.

It was a stiff climb past the Horn of Capricorn to Halfway House. As we approached this abandoned old inn now rapidly falling into decay, we were drawn to a field on the left of the road where there is a partly excavated mound known locally as Carreg-y-Bucci—the Hobgoblin Stone—a name which has caused it to be regarded with reverential awe. It is an old burial mound across the open top of which lies a large stone fifteen feet in length. In spite of local fear of the place farmers in search of gate posts have turned a covetous eye upon this stone.

It still remains unharmed and well it might, for here is the story of one who had thoughts of breaking it up. "No sooner had I got out my tools than there was a violent thunderstorm, the worst I have ever known. I ran for my life, but it followed me all the way home. Three men have been killed there by lightning."

Round about lie a number of other stones in no definite order. They were all over the field, yet a few might suggest the outline of a circle. This impression was strengthened by a second visit when on the crest of the hill on which is one of the cairns mentioned in the last issue a parallel line of stones was found eighteen feet apart, only the tips being visible. This has the appearance of an avenue of stones leading to the mound, although one end seems to be blocked by a fall of stones. The mound, or as I prefer to call it the circle, is in direct line with the Inner and Outer Sanctuaries.

If this proves to be a circle we may perhaps assume that each sign had its own temple or chapel. A thorough examination of the area covered by each sign is necessary and Crugs or tumuli situated thereon may prove to be burial places which were once stone circles chosen for important burials because of the sacredness of the sites. There are such places on Sagittarius and Scorpio but these are as yet unexamined by us.

As we continue our investigation into the Temple we are impressed by the close parallel of its influence with that of early Celtic saints. The land north of the temple centering on Llandewi-Brefi is known as the Sanctuary of St. David, a saint intimately connected with the Arthurian tradition and who is said by some (although wrongly) to be buried in Glastonbury. In the area of Carreg-y-Bucci there is a church Llan-y-Crwwys

known as David's Church, and so marked on the maps. Llan-y-Crwys means Church of the Crosses, Crwys being the old Welsh plural of Croes, or Cross. Tradition has it that the church was so named after the Stone of the Three Crosses situated on the boundary between Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire. In Welsh the Stone of the Three Crosses could be interpreted as the Stone of the Three-Armed Cross, a possible description of the Tau cross.

We have searched for the cross and have learned the story of its removal. In a field close to Hirfaen there existed once a wattle and daub church. A stone paving led from the standing stone Hirfaen to the church. The paving was only removed a generation ago and its removal is recorded. In the churchyard there once stood a long oblong stone with square edges bearing three small incised crosses within circles, one being in the centre and the others at the sides. This description is based on a drawing of the stone. Could it have been the top stone of a Tau cross dedicated to Christian usage by the incision of the three crosses? The church was St. David's church, the original Llan-y-Crwys. Later this was built on a more convenient site near the village of Farmers. The stone was eventually moved and it is said that the workmen who moved it to its first resting place were disturbed by its characteristics. They said it was an Echo stone. It is now believed to be in Golden Grove, south of Llandeilo, and some distance from the temple. It is worthy of the greatest care.

Another cross is associated with St. David, though stories of its original site are not in agreement. That it came from Allt Dewi in the sign of the Ram is highly probable as it is now used as a footbridge crossing the stream below the farm Allt Dewi. Another story has it that it came from Llandewi Brefi, again connecting it with St. David. We sought for it but torrential rains the previous day made it impossible to approach the flooded stream.

Thus with the Field of the Cross below Pumpsaint we now have traces of three crosses. Is there a fourth?

To revert to Hirfaen. Mrs. Williams, of Pant-y-Maen, an active old lady of 85, said that the correct name of the stone was "Hirfaen Gundun gwyn who slew the seneshal of Arthur the Great." There is some confusion here, possibly in the name, for in the tale of Kilhweh and Owen we read of "Gwyddawg the son of Menestyr (who slew Kai and whom Arthur slew together with his brothers to avenge Kai)." Cwndwn gwyn is the name of a farm near by, meaning "plowed land." Originally the name of the farm was Coed tir mynach, "the wood of the monks' land." We are indebted to Mr. Davies, the schoolmaster at Farmers, for this information.

From the centre temple there is a footpath leading to a wood which crosses the hill as it approaches Hirfaen. The road ends on the side of the hill. This appears to have been the way from the centre temple to the entrance of the circle

of the zodiac between the two woods forming the sign of Pisces. This entrance was well guarded. On the inner edge of each wood are marked entrenchments having names indicating castles. Forming the base of a triangle which can be constructed with its apex to the west, here stood a fort. These forts or castles formed the material protection of the entrance. The spiritual protection was emphasized by three signs. Reference to the illustration of the temple shows one in the form of an extinct bird, not unlike the illustration of a prehistoric water fowl appearing in the *Illustrated London News* of 16th October. This sign, situated west of Lampeter, consists of three adjacent woods, the centre one being known as Hen Feddan, or Old Graves, probably the burial place of those who were not intimately connected with the services of the temple.

To the north is another wood in the shape of a leopard, its leg pointing towards the entrance. These are the only external figures shown on the illustration. There is yet a third further north of a bird with some resemblance to the raven family. It is situated above Llangybi to the west of the main road. The figure is formed by the woods Allt tan-y-Coed and Allt Olmarch.

Possibly we have here a hidden allusion to King Arthur, for Lewis Spence in his *Minor Traditions of British Mythology* gives an interesting quotation from Don Quixote:

"There goes an old tradition and a common one all over the kingdom of Great Britain, that the king (Arthur) did not die, but that by magic art he was turned into a raven and that in the course of time he shall reign again." (Book II, Chap. V). He also gives the tale of a man who was amusing himself shooting small birds on Maraycore Green in Cornwall and who shot at a raven. Whereupon an old man who happened to pass by angrily rebuked him, and told him that he should not have fired at the bird because King Arthur was still alive enchanted in raven shape and the raven might have been none other than he.

LITERARY MONOLOGUES.

Vision of Peru, by Violet Clifton. Duckworth, London, 1947.

To those who are interested in the early history of the South American continent, this work with its ancient legends, extracts from old books scarcely known in Europe, gives a vivid picture of the Peruvian civilisation, its rise and its collapse under the impact of the Spanish invaders.

On Atlantis the author says: "The waves of the Atlantis sang, and they sing, the song of Columbus. Thus are the verses and thus are the responses made from wave to wave:—

'Mare Tenebrosum, Mare Tenebrosum, the Clouded Sea.'
Because it was said that, to the Westward, a cloud lay on the surface of the sea.

Other waves outsing, outery, contradict. Who say:—

'Edrisi, Edrisi is our name, men called us after the Arab Geographer.'

Greater waves, older waves, wiser waves shout instead:—

'Atlantis, Atlantis, this is the name that will stand.'

The land has vanished, is lost, the waters, instead, take up the name of Atlanticie."

The author's mystical approach, compounded of Blake and Merejowski, makes this a most entrancing and absorbing book

Art and Life in Ancient Mexico, by Cottie A. Burland. Bruno Cassier, 1948. 16/-

The interest shown by Atlantologists in the story of the Mayas, has often led to the equally fascinating complementary story of their northern neighbours, the Aztecs, being overlooked.

This interesting work, by one of the leading authorities of to-day, is packed with illustrations, many of which have not before been available, has line drawings of glyphs which delight by their very simplicity, and there is also a good bibliography and a clear map of Aztec territory.

The notes on Mexican writing and on the complicated calendrical system are concise and lucid and should be of assistance to many who have found earlier explanations too complicated.

A delightful book not only to possess, but also to give as a present for the festive season.

CRITIAS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

When I wrote "Elephants in America," which recently appeared in *Atlantean Research*, I had not read that most interesting work by A. Hyatt Verrill, *Old Civilizations of the New World* (New York, 1943). He records that he discovered the Coelé culture in Panama in 1924, and believes that there are good reasons for considering it the most ancient of known advanced cultures in Central or South America. The following is an extract from page 82:—"The most astonishing of the idols is one bearing a figure which is so strikingly and obviously elephantine that it cannot be explained away by any of the ordinary theories of being a conventionalized or exaggerated tapir, ant-eater or macaw. Not only does this figure show a trunk, but in addition it has the big leaf-like ears and the forward-bending knees peculiar to the elephants. Moreover, it shows a load or burden strapped upon its back. It is inconceivable that any man could have imagined a creature with the flapping ears and peculiar hind knees of an elephant, or that any human being could have conventionalized a tapir to this extent. To my mind there is no doubt that the people who built this temple and reached such heights of culture in Panama in prehistoric times had either seen elephants, had domesticated some species of mastodon, or were in direct and frequent communication with the Orient and had heard descriptions of elephants from visitors from Asia. Until a better explanation is offered I see no other way of explaining the presence of this figure."

The importance of this compared with Stela B from Copan, is obvious.

P. L. Collignon,

Church Green,
Witney, Oxon.

Dear Sir,

In the September number of the National Geographic Magazine in an article entitled "Exploring the Mid-Atlantic Ridge," the following paragraph occurs (page 291).

"Following the deep gorge westward, we dredged again, this time in 2,300 fathoms (about 2 2/3 miles). The haul was mostly serpentine, but it included a strange specimen, a mass of tremolite asbestos . . ."

Such rock is generally considered typical of continents and not of ocean basins.

Amy Middleton.

3, Iddlesleigh Road,
Woodhall Spa.

Dear Sir,

As your readers are well aware, there have been three post-war explorations of the oceans which have indirectly touched on the subject of the lost Atlantean Continent.

These are the United States expedition in the Atlantis, the Swedish expedition under Professor Pettersen in the Albatross and finally Professor Picard's attempt to explore the depths off the coast of Guinea.

The fact that there was a continent in the Atlantic about 10,000 B.C. may now be taken as being proved from the geological point of view, but proving the existence of a civilisation is another big step which has to be taken soon.

To this end endeavours are being made to raise funds to equip a small expedition of some six or seven people to visit the Azores to seek for traces of the Atlantean Culture on the under water slopes of the mountains. Full details will be announced in due course, possibly simultaneously with those of my projected visit to the United States. For the moment it may be said that no volunteers are needed, the main requirements are funds for technical equipment, etc. For these an initial target of \$15,000 or \$20,000 has been set. Should this first small expedition prove fruitful, a second and larger one will be arranged if interest and funds are forthcoming.

Egerton Sykes.

Chairman of the Research
Centre Group.

31, King's Road, S.W.3.

Dear Sir,

In his fascinating book, *Mysteries of Ancient South America*, Mr. Wilkins gives the story of the lost city discovered by Bandeiristas in 1743-53. In this narrative appear mysterious characters believed to have been engraved on the great stones sealing the vaults of treasure or mausola in the city.

In *Brazilian El Dorado* by J. R. de Sa Carvalho (Blackie & Son, 1938) there are reproductions of inscriptions found by Mr. Galvao on the walls of a cavern at Salto Grande on the upper Tapajos, which correspond exactly to those of the old Portuguese MS. Moreover, the description given by Mr. Galvao of the place—a great cataract with subterranean noises and huge caverns—is identical with that given by the Bandeiristas of a place, three days down-stream from their lost city. Surely this is no coincidence? And may it not furnish a valuable clue to the location of what may well be the first Atlantean city to be revealed to the world?

Jeremy Forster.

4, Princes Road,
Ashford, Middlesex.

Dear Sir,

Some months ago there appeared in the *News Chronicle* a story by Elspeth Campbell describing the discovery by Dr. F. L. Russell of a hundred giants in a series of caves in the Nevada Desert of California. These giants had an average height of 7ft. 9ins. and, according to the writer, must have weighed about 280 lbs.

Since reading this article I have kept my eyes open for further details, but have not seen any yet. Can any reader give me any information regarding Dr. Russell and in which scientific journal his original story was published?

E. Sykes.

9, Markham Square,
London, S.W.3.

A RACE THAT LIVED BEFORE THE MOON.

Extract from *The Uttermost Parts of the Earth*, by E. Lucas Bridges. London, 1948. Hodder & Stroughton.

P.165: "... It has been stated that all primitive tribes have some legend of the Flood. I have diligently searched for some Ona story about it, but have found none. On the other hand the Yahgans have various versions of such an occurrence. The stories differ according to locality, each narrative setting the scene in its own district. Without doubt, some of these stories were influenced by an awareness of our Bible account, or by prompting and wishful thinking on the part of certain hopeful missionary listeners. There is, however, one story that I am certain is close to its original form. It was related to me by the Yahgans who belonged to the eastern end of the Beagle Channel.

"They said that long ago the moon fell into the sea, which rose in consequence with great turmoil, just as waters in a bucket will rise when a large stone is dropped into it. The only survivors of this flood were the fortunate inhabitants of Gable Island which broke away from the ocean bed and floated on the sea. The mountains around were soon submerged, and the folk on Gable Island, looking in all directions, saw nothing but ocean. The island did not drift. It was anchored in some way; and when the moon rose out of the sea and the water subsided, it settled down again in the same place as before, with its burden of human beings, guanaco and foxes. From these the world was peopled again.

"The Yahgans were certain that they were the only Feugian tribe descended from those who came through the flood on Gable Island. How the Alceloof, Aush and Ona survived the distaster, the Yahgans did not try to explain.

"The chief interest of this legend lies in the natives' obvious comprehension of the moon's tremendous size. In passing, they were also well aware, before being told by the white man, of the influence exerted by the moon on the tides."

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